## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00876 101718Z ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----074773 101724Z /47

O 101535Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7173
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL MAPUTO 0876O

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PDEV, MZ, RH, UK, US

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MYGABE RAISES QUESTION ABOUT UNPUBLICIZED

MEETING.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A MESSAGE THE BRITISH EMBASSY SENT FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH TEKERE THIS MORNING QUOTE. TEKERE APPROACHED US AGAIN THIS MORNING WITH A FURTHER MESSAGE FROM MUGABE. MUGABE WISHED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT, AS THE PROPOSED MEETING OF THE PRINCIPALS WAS TO BE HELD UNDER UK/US AUSPICES, HE EXPECTED THAT DR OWEN WOULD ATTEND. TEKERE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS IMPORTANT TO ZANU SINCE THEY WISHED TO SAFEGUARD THEIR POSITION THAT: A) THEY WOULD BE DEALING WITH A BRITISH DELEGATION: B) THEY WOULD REGARD THE MEETING AS QUOTE ONE OF THE FIRST STAGES OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE UNQUOTE. WE UNDERTOOK TO CLARIFY THIS MATTER. (AS NEITHER EVETTS NOR I TOOK PART IN THE MEETING HELD BY GRAHAM AND LOW LAST WEEK. WE DO NOT OURSELVES KNOW WHAT FORM IT WAS INTENDED THAT BRITISH REPRESENTATION WOULD TAKE) WE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT ZANU'S POSITION WAS UNDERSTOOD AND IT WAS ACCEPTED THAT THE PARTIES COMING TO THIS MEETING WOULD WISH TO RESERVE THEIR OWN POSITIONS CONFIDENTIAL.

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THE IMPORTANT THING WAS THAT THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE, WITHOUT PUBLICITY, AND WE HOPED THAT PROCEDURAL MATTERS WOULD NOT GET IN THE WAY.

IT WAS ALSO EVIDENT THAT THERE EXISTED SOME RESIDUAL CONFUSION (WHICH I HOPE WE HAVE DISPELLED) IN TEKERE'S MIND BETWEEN:

A) THE IDEA OF AN ALL PARTY CONFERENCE AGREED ON AT DAR.

B) THE IDEA PUT FORWARD ON GRAHAM AND LOWS LAST ROUND (AND REJECTED BY MUGABE ) THAT THERE MIGHT BE LOWER LEVEL MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES.
C) THE PRESENT INITIATIVE TO SECURE AN UNPUBLICIZED MEETING OF THE PRINCIPALS.
I HAVE INFORMED THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR OF THIS DEVELOPMENT WE ALSO GAVE TEKERE THE TEXT OF THE REUTERS REPORT CONTAINED IN YOUR TELNO 108. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR PROPOSES TO LET HIM HAVE THE FULL TEXT OF HARROP'S REMARKS. TEKERE SEEMED MORE RELAXED TODAY ABOUT THIS MATTER. DE CHASSIRON. UNQUOTE.

2. I DO NOT PLAN TO SEEK MEETING WITH EITHER MUGABE OR TEKERE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO POSSIBLE QUERIES REGARDING OWEN/VANCE ATTENDANCE ON PROPOSED UNPUBLICIZED MEETING. SHOULD THEY RAISE MATTER WITH ME.

DE PREE

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